

ANNUAL REPORT
TO
THE MEMBERS OF
SHORT HEATH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

BY
JOHN T. HARTILL,

L.R.C.P.L., M.R.C.S. Eng., J.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 23rd, 1907.

Summary of Vital and Mortal Statistics for 1906.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,063 acres.
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Population :—

Census, 1901	...	...	...	...	3,531
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Estimated, 1905	...	...	...	...	3,808
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Number of Inhabited Houses :—

Census, 1901	...	...	...	...	722
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Estimated, 1905	...	...	...	...	788
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Average Number of Persons per House	..	4·8
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Density	...	...	...	...	...	3·5 per acre.
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Births	...	...	...	...	...	134
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Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	...	35·1
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Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	47
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Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	12·3
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Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births registered	126·8
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Medical Officer's Annual Report.

1906.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In this my 36th Annual Report, I have pleasure in stating that the general health of the adult population was uniformly good, and that, although there was a good deal of sickness of an infectious nature amongst children in the last quarter of the year, the number of serious cases of contagious disease was very small.

The District lies at an altitude of from 420 to 550 feet above the sea level, has a general fall towards the South East and an open country all round it, and is inhabited almost entirely by the Working Classes, engaged in the production of locks and keys, and as Coal Miners. The lock trade was far from good throughout the year, and when towards the end of it, matters began to look brighter so far as work was concerned, small employers of labour found themselves heavily handicapped by the high price of brass and copper. The Mining industry, at no part of the year exceptionally prosperous, was decidedly slack in the earlier part; and many were thrown out of employment by the closure of a part of the Essington mines, on the conclusion of a law-suit. The supply of food was sufficient and sufficiently wholesome. The water supply was good, but in consequence of insufficiency, was intermittent at the higher parts in August and September. No considerable extension of gas or electric power to production of manufactured goods was made.

The Birth and Death Rates, calculated on a population of 3808, were respectively 35·1 and 12·3; or including those who died in public institutions outside the district 13·1 per thousand per year. The averages in the ten preceding years were respectively 39·7 and 15·9. The Death Rate from preventable diseases was 1·5, as compared with an average of 2·1 in the ten preceding years. The

population was obtained by multiplying the number of houses by 4·8, which was the average number per house at the last two Censuses, and adding on 25 residents in the Union House—the resulting figures closely corresponding with the house to house inspection record.

With the exception of the preceding year the Birth Rate was the lowest since 1889. The Death Rate was lower in only four years since 1872.

The deaths of children under a year old per 1000 births registered were 126·8, as compared with an average of 147·8 in the ten preceding years—a decided improvement. Of the 17 infants who died, 16 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate children. Five of them were prematurely born; four others died from debility from birth; two were deaths of children who were weaklings from birth, but died from an infectious ailment; three died from Convulsions possibly hastened by errors in diet; one from Tubercle and two from Bronchitis. Most of them would probably have died, if their sanitary surroundings had been more perfect.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever and two of Erysipelas were certified. Of other Contagious or Infectious Diseases there came to my knowledge—Chicken Pox; 26; Diarrhœa, 10; Measles, 157; Mumps, 1; Whooping Cough, 10; and Influenza, 5. Of these 2 died from Measles and 3 from Diarrhœa.

With regard to Scarlet Fever, there were six separate introductions from outside places, and in no case was there any spread of the disease beyond the inmates of the households primarily affected; but in one instance the circumstances called for more than the ordinary action of a Medical Officer of Health. In this case, insufficient care in the matter of isolation *prior to July 7th* was taken, notwithstanding the fact that special attention had been directed to the Clauses of the Act bearing on the subject. Having been informed that ice creams, sweets and newspapers were being sold on the premises, I wrote to the parents, informed them I should

place the facts before the Council, and warned them of the risk they incurred of penalties if ice-creams or sweets were made or sold on infected premises; and further I advised them not to sell or handle anything intended for public food and to arrange for their news-vending business to be carried on from other premises, and by persons who had no communication with their premises. As a result of this letter, your Inspector of Nuisances informs me a quantity of ice-creams made on the premises and intended for sale was voluntarily destroyed, and that the shop was thereafter temporarily closed and that the children were satisfactorily isolated. This led me to consider whether I had the power to seize and condemn as unfit for use ice-creams made under such conditions, but I was advised that I had not the power. I thereupon advised the Council to endeavour to obtain power either by Act or Bye-law, for its Officers to seize ice-creams made under circumstances which would make it probable they were infected, so that they might be condemned by a Magistrate as unfit for food and afterwards destroyed, and in addition the power the London County Council has by Part 8 of their General Powers Act 1902 for regulating the manufacture and sale of ice-creams whether in shops or by itinerant vendors.

It is satisfactory to note that no case of Diphtheria has been certified since 1904; nor of Typhoid Fever since 1903.

There was very little Diarrhœa, although the excessive heat in the early part of September was favourable to the vitality of the specific poison which gives rise to the epidemic form of the disease, where-ever the soil near to dwelling-houses was contaminated by animal or vegetable refuse in a state of decomposition.

As regards Measles, although there were a few isolated cases between January and July, nothing serious developed until September, and not then, as far as I can gather, from infection from these earlier cases. The main body of the disease started at the Darlaston Road end of Willenhall, and spread thence into Short Heath. In

September a child attended the Wesleyan Schools at Short Heath until the rash broke out. Measles is undoubtedly contagious before the rash appears. A large number in the Infant Department contracted the ailment simultaneously, and probably from the case referred to. On September 22nd I advised closure of the Infant Department of this School for one month. On November 14th, a similar condition of things having arisen at Holy Trinity Church Schools, I advised closure of the Infant Department of that School until December 17th. Infants at School are a common cause of infectious disease, and especially of Measles; and in my opinion, the good received by training and tuition in Schools at such a tender age is more than counter-balanced by disease originated by or through their aggregation at School. Notwithstanding the number of cases notified, I am decidedly of opinion that closure was beneficial in both Schools, not only to the infants, but also, and more especially, to the children attending the Mixed Departments. Both Schools were ordered to be disinfected and cleansed, and advice was given to cease holding Sunday School classes during the compulsory closure of the Day Schools.

Fortunately, no case occurred needing isolation at The South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital at Bradley, which was opened at the end of 1905.

The Sanitary Inspector, acting under my supervision, made the usual house to house inspection. The record shows 788 houses, of which 3 were new and 2 re-occupied by consent of Council after condemnation; with 1867 bedrooms, 497 sanitary conveniences, and 367 ash-pits—of which 245 were covered and 122 not covered. Forty houses had only one bed-room, 21 were void, and 135 persons lived in lodgings; but there are no registered lodging houses. In my last annual report, and in many others, I advised that every ash-pit should be made water-tight, above and below, as quickly as possible; yet I had occasion in June to call attention to a breach of this rule, in newly erected property in New Street, Lane Head.

The sanitary conveniences are chiefly privy cess-pits ; and excrement and house refuse are removed by contract. Ashpits and sanitary conveniences have been kept in fair order. One prosecution was instituted and a conviction obtained for keeping pigs within 60 feet of a dwelling house. The bake-houses, slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops were regularly inspected, and appear to have been kept in fairly clean condition. The milk supply was almost exclusively from local farmers. From Table 6, appended hereto, the Council may observe, that not only were all Notices, both Formal and Informal issued in 1905 and carried forward, complied with in 1906 ; but that all Formal and Informal Notices served in 1906 have also already been complied with. This in my opinion not only speaks well for the Council and for the people, but speaks still better for the courtesy and tact of the Inspector of Nuisances, for the Notices appear to have been numerous.

During the year I inspected 7 Factories and 31 Workshops, and personally requested that 30 of these might be limewashed by a specified date. Many of these shops were not actually in an unclean condition at the date of inspection, but the principle, which governed my action, was as far as I was able, to get every shop limewashed at least once in fourteen months, and preferably at least once a year, and by choice in the summer months, and for the workmens' convenience in holiday weeks. At a later inspection by your Sanitary Inspector, every request is reported to have been complied with. Two uncovered ashpits near to workshops are about to be made water-tight above and below. The drain near to one shop in Quinton's lane has been cleansed, but further improvement is desirable. Three pigsties near to workshops have been demolished ; four minor nuisances were abated ; in two cases the cubic capacity was given and form 46 thereafter posted up ; and attention was called to the need for more cleanliness in a stable near to a bake-house, with the desired result. There was no overcrowding ; the Factory Abstract

was posted up in every case in which it is legally required ; there is no known place in which work is carried on in a home, that is to say a dwelling house or dwelling place, as distinct from a known workshop within the curtilage or enclosed area of a dwelling. No Formal Notices were issued and none were in my opinion necessary. Nothing was notified by H.M. Inspector, and no communication was made with him, except on the subject of a circular issued by the Home Office in October. In consequence of that circular, I drew up a notice, a copy of which is enclosed ; and the Council directed the Sanitary Inspector to send a copy by post to every occupier of a Factory or Workshop in the District. Sixty two such notices were sent, and I am informed that the Council has received no replies which have added to our previous knowledge. One Outworker's List was received once in the year only from one neighbouring Council, giving the address of one man only, as an out-worker. He carries on his business of key-making in a small shop, which has from time to time been inspected, near to his dwelling house, and employs two persons who work in the same shop. At the end of the year there were 11 factories and 53 workshops occupied, and 3 workshops void.

The property in Back Lane, which I described in 1905, as unfit for human habitation has been repaired to the satisfaction of your Surveyor, and is again tenanted.

New Street, Lane Head, is still in an unsatisfactory condition. I advised the Council to get it properly made and sewered. The Private Street Works Act 1892, which I understand has been adopted, gives them power.

In the course of the year, a sewer was laid commencing at the upper part of the Front Lane of Short Heath Village, and passing down the Back Lane to a point near the White Lion Inn, a distance of 640 yards ; another sewer extension 220 yards in length was made down the Wolverhampton Road, New Invention ; and another sewer about 120 yards long was laid at Lucknow. These are in part,

if not entirely, intended to be parts of the sections of the scheme leading up to sewage purification. The drainage from upwards of 100 houses has already been diverted from the street channels to these sewers, and by further extensions it is intended that the sewage of more than another 100 houses shall, at an early date, pass in the same direction. A contract to purchase about an acre of land, off the Wolverhampton Road, for sewage purification purposes has been signed, and will shortly be completed. The site is about 300 yards from the highway, and is deemed the best available for dealing with that section of the sewage scheme which comprises New Invention. Negotiations have not been broken off for purchase of land for sewage purposes near the Gas Works ; but difficulties of some sort are in the way for the present.

The large number of Notices, both Formal and Informal, to remedy faults in House Drainage, were chiefly the result of sewers being provided, thus making diversion of the surface drains possible.

The births of 70 Males and 64 Females were registered ; and 17 children died under a year old. There were 79 cases of successful primary vaccination ; no certificates of insusceptibility were received ; and 6 children were exempted from vaccination by Magisterial Order. These figures seem to indicate that a little tactful pressure might lead to many more being vaccinated, without resorting to prosecution.

No case of Puerperal Fever or other serious complications after Confinement amongst women attended by registered Midwives was brought to my notice.

All deaths—but two—were certified by Doctor or Coroner. Three persons, from the District, died in a public institution outside, each person being over 65 years old.

The Tables required by the Local Government Board, County Council, and the Home Office, are in substance appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Willenhall,

JOHN T. HARTILL,

January 23rd, 1906.

M. O. H.



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Table 1.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-resi- dents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate ^a	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate. ^a
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate. ^a					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	3373	136	40.3	14	102.9	46	13.6			0	46	13.6
1897	3472	153	44.0	33	215.6	79	22.7					
1898	3531	156	44.1	29	185.8	54	15.2			0	54	15.2
1899	3531	135	38.2	28	207.4	55	15.5			0	55	15.5
1900	3531	130	36.8	15	115.3	72	20.3			0	72	20.3
1901	3531	135	38.2	19	140.7	47	13.3			1	48	13.5
1902	3610	162	44.8	21	129.6	44	12.1			2	46	12.7
1903	3649	148	40.5	20	135.1	69	18.9			4	73	20.0
1904	3749	141	37.6	14	99.2	41	10.9			3	44	11.7
1905	3783	128	33.8	25	195.3	69	18.2			8	77	20.3
Averages for years 1896-1905	3576	142	39.7	21	147.8	57	15.9	0	0			
1906	3808	134	35.1	17	126.8	47	12.3	0	0	3	50	13.1

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 1063.

Total population at all ages 3531
Number of inhabited houses 722
Average number of persons per house 4.8 } At Census of 1901.

NOTE.—Columns 9, 10, and 11.—There are no Public Institutions *in the District*. I have no information of any deaths except those *in* the District and those as given *in* the Union House, prior to 1901.

The Township of Short Heath now embraces the old Local Board District of Short Heath, plus part of Wednesfield old Local Board District.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Table 2.

LOCALITIES.

Not filled up, as there are no recognised divisions
of known population.

Table 3.**Cases of Infectious Disease certified during the year.**

	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'ds
Scarlet Fever ...	8	1	2	5			
Erysipelas ...	2				1	1	
Totals ...	10	1	2	5	1	1	0

Other cases of Infectious Disease which came to my knowledge.

	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'ds
Chicken Pox ...	26	1	10	15			
Diarrhœa ...	10	2	4			1	3
Measles ...	157	1	86	70			
Mumps ...	1			1			
Whooping Cough	10	1	7	2			
Influenza ...	5				1	3	1
Totals ...	209	5	107	88	1	4	4

Table 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox								
Measles	2		2					
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping-cough								
Diphtheria and membranous croup								
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric								
{ Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	3	2	1					
Enteritis								
Puerperal Fever... ..								
Erysipelas								
Other Septic Diseases								
Phthisis	2				2			
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	1	3					
Cancer, malignant disease	2					1	1	
Bronchitis	4	2				1	1	
Pneumonia	3		2			1		
Pleurisy								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal Diseases								
Premature Birth	5	5						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition								
Heart Diseases	4					2	2	
Accidents... ..	1		1					
Suicides								
Found Drowned	1					1		
All other causes	19	7	1			2	9	
All causes	50	17	10	0	2	8	13	0

Table 5.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	Certified	...	6	1			7	2	1	1		1		1			2	1	16
	Uncertified	...	1				1												1
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...																	
	Chicken-pox	...																	
	Measles	...																	
	Scarlet Fever	...																	
	Diphtheria: Croup	...																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough	...																	
	Diarrhoea, all forms	...										1					1		2
	Enteritis (not Tuberculous)	...																	
Wasting Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...																	
	Premature Birth	...	4				4	1											5
	Congenital Defects	...																	
	Injury at Birth	...																	
	Want of Breast-milk	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	3				3	1											4
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...																1	1
	Erysipelas	...																	
	Syphilis	...																	
	Rickets	...																	
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...																	
	Convulsions	...		1			1		1					1					3
	Bronchitis	...								1							1		2
	Laryngitis	...																	
	Pneumonia	...																	
	Suffocation, overlaying	...																	
	Other Causes	...																	
			7	1	0	0	8	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	17

Births in the year	Legitimate	134
	Illegitimate	1
Deaths in the year	Legitimate infants	16
	Illegitimate infant	1

Table 6.**SUMMARY OF WORK BY INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.**

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	788
Schools	„	...	...	...	...	...	3
Workshops and Factories inspected, including Bakehouses							43
Dairies inspected quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds	„	„	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughter-houses inspected quarterly			...	...	...	...	3
Ashpits and Privies inspected		...	...	...	...	...	864
Pigsties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Informal Notices to remedy foul condition of Dwelling Houses							
and their appurtenances	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal Notices to remedy structural defects in Dwelling							
Houses and their appurtenances	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Formal Notices to abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal Notices to abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Formal Notices concerning Houses unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses rendered fit for habitation after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Formal Notices to abate nuisances from Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Formal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Abatements after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Informal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Abatements after Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	76

(Continued on next page).

TABLE 6 (continued).

Formal Notices to abate nuisances from Pigsties	...	3
Abatements after Notice	... ..	3
Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Pigsties	...	8
Abatements after Notice	... ..	8
Informal Notices to limewash and cleanse Workshops and Factories	... ..	30
Notices complied with	... ..	30
Informal Notices to abate other nuisances in or near Workshops		5
Abatements after Notice	... ..	5
Formal Notices to abate nuisance from fowl and pigeons in dwelling houses	... ..	2
Abatements after Notice	... ..	2
Informal Notices to abate other Nuisances	... ..	2
Abatements after Notice	... ..	2
Formal Notices in 1905, complied with in 1906	... ..	6
Informal Notices in 1905, complied with in 1906	... ..	2
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	... ..	6
Schools ,, ,, ,, ,,	... ..	2
Prosecution and conviction for overcrowding	... ..	1
Prosecution and conviction for keeping pigs within 60 feet of dwelling house	... ..	1



Table 7.**Abstract of Particulars asked for by Home Office.**

Factories—Inspections	...	13	Notices	...	10*	
Workshops	„	...	61	„	...	52*

Defects found :

Want of Cleanliness	...	30	Remedied	30
Other Nuisances	...	11	„	9
Other Offences	...	2	„	2

Homework :

List received—1. Outworker—1 in registered workshop.

Workshops on Register at end of 1906—56. Occupied—53

Chief Trades therein :

Lock manufacture	...	29		
Key	„	...	18	
Bake-houses	...	...	2	
File-cutting	...	..	...	1
Blacksmith	...	...	...	2
Carpenter	...	...	...	1
Factories in District	...	...	...	11

Trades therein :

Lock Manufacture	...	7
Key	...	2
Gas	...	1
Stamping	...	1

*These were general printed Notices issued in consequence of circular issued by Home Office, October 4th 1906, and not Formal or Informal Notices in the usual sense of the word.

